

Remarks

Support for the changes to the specification can be found, *inter alia*, in the Sequence Listing and Figures as filed. The figure legend has been changed to omit reference to Figure 13C and to correct the sequence identifiers. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

In response to the requirement to file electronically reproducible drawings, Applicants are submitting herewith a Letter to PTO Draftsman: Submission of Formal Drawings.

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.825(a), Applicant submits substitute sheets to amend the paper copy of the Sequence Listing. The specification has been amended to direct entry of the Substitute Sequence Listing submitted herewith. The Sequence Listing has been amended to conform to U.S. standards. No new matter has been added by way of the Substitute Sequence Listing.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.825(b), the paper copy of the Substitute Sequence Listing and the computer readable copy of the Substitute Sequence Listing submitted herewith are the same.

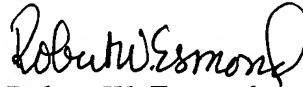
Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Esmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Robert W. Esmond
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,893

Date: December 16, 2003

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600